

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A blender system, comprising:
 - a blender base;
 - a container removably engaged with the blender base, the blender base comprising a drive shaft, a gear system, a first blade assembly and a second blade assembly;
 - the first blade assembly comprising a first blade affixed to an end of a first blade shaft;
 - the second blade assembly comprising a second blade affixed to an end of a second blade shaft;
 - wherein the drive shaft engages the gear system and wherein the gear system engages the first blade shaft of the first blade assembly and the second blade shaft of the second blade assembly such that movement of the drive shaft is operable to cause the first blade and the second blade to rotate;
 - wherein the drive shaft extends substantially vertically and the first blade shaft and the second blade shaft are substantially angled from the vertical position.
2. (Original) The blender system of claim 1 wherein the first blade and the second blade are positioned at different heights.
3. (Original) The blender system of claim 1 wherein the first blade is angled about 30 degrees from the vertical position in a direction toward the container.

4. (Original) The blender system of claim 3 wherein the second blade is angled about 30 degrees from the vertical position in a direction toward the container.

5. (Original) The blender system of claim 1 further comprising a third blade assembly in the blender base, the third blade assembly having a third blade shaft and a third blade.

6. (Currently Amended) A blender system, comprising:

- a blender base;
- a container removably engaged with the blender base;
- a first blade assembly and a second blade assembly provided in the blender base, the first blade assembly comprising a first blade affixed to an end of a first blade shaft, the second blade assembly comprising a second blade affixed to an end of a second blade shaft; and

- a motor operatively connected to at least one of the first and second blade assemblies;

wherein the drive shaft extends substantially vertically and the first blade shaft and second blade shaft are substantially angled from the vertical position.

7. (Original) The blender system of claim 6 wherein the first blade is angled about 30 degrees from the vertical position in a direction toward the container.

8. (Original) The blender system of claim 7 wherein the second blade is angled about 30 degrees from the vertical position in a direction toward the container.

9. (Original) The blender system of claim 7 further comprising a third blade assembly in the blender base, the third blade assembly having a third blade shaft and a third blade.

10. (Original) The blender system of claim 7 wherein the container has a substantially circular cross-section.

11. (Currently Amended) A blender system, comprising:

a blender base;

a container removably engaged with the blender base;

a first blade assembly, a second blade assembly and a third blade assembly provided in the blender base, the first blade assembly comprising a first blade affixed to an end of a first blade shaft, the second blade assembly comprising a second blade affixed to an end of a second blade shaft, and the third blade assembly comprising a third blade affixed to an end of a third blade shaft; and

a motor operatively connected to at least one of the first, second and third blade assemblies;

wherein the drive shaft extends substantially vertically and the first, second and third blade assemblies are positioned in a triangular configuration about the center of the base and are substantially angled from the vertical position.

12. Canceled

13. (Original) The blender system of claim 11 wherein the first blade shaft, the second blade shaft, and the third blade shaft are each angled about 30 degrees from the vertical position toward the container.

14. (Original) The blender system of claim 11 wherein the container has a substantially circular cross-section.